(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of trans-asian network covering Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether there is any plan to develop the road from Agartala to the nearest city of Bangladesh, as Tripura is strategically convenient; and

(c) whether Government are attaching importance to the proposal in consideration of the terroristic problems prevailing in the North-Eastern Region of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The identified Asian highway routes traverse through Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Roads in Hilly Region

2471. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 2002 and state:

(a) the amount of assistance being provided by the World Bank for upgradation of road and by when, the work of upgradation would be started for convenience of the people of hilly region;

(b) whether Government have awarded any tender for upgradation of this road; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, the amount of assistance to be provided by the World Bank for upgradation/rehabilitation of the Meerut-Bijnor-Najibabad section of State Highway in U.P. is Rs. 44.36 crores. The work has already been taken up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government of Uttar Pradesh has awarded the contract.

(c) The work is in progress and is targeted to be completed by March 2004.

Pollution Check

2472. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vehicle is now mandatory for pollution check after every three months and there are more than 30 lakh vehicles in the Capital;

(b) whether the fake pollution vehicle certificates are easily available on payment of premium in Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad adjoining cities of the Capital;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check the malpractice;

(d) whether Government propose to make the pollution check compulsory at least once in six months or in a year instead of three months keeping in view the problems of vehicle owners; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Rule 115 (7) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 prescribes that the "Pollution Under Control' Certificate shall be valid for six months or any lesser period as may be specified by the State Government from time to time. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has specified the validity of "Pollution Under Control' Certificate in the National Capital Territory of Delhi as three months. It is a fact that there are more than thirty lakh registered vehicles in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) and (c) The "Pollution Under Control' Certificates are issued by the agencies authorised by the State Governments. Hence, it is the responsibility of concerned State Governments to check fake certificates. No specific complaint about issue of fake certificates in Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(d) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has intimated